

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT A 01622 051644Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 USPS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03
/023 W

-----060852Z 019100 /22

R 051605Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4865

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 1622

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, HA
SUBJECT: HAITIAN POSTAL DEBT

REF: STATE 088624

1. AMBASSADOR AND ECONOMIC OFFICER CALLED ON NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT ANTONIO ANDRE MAY 3 TO DISCUSS INTER ALIA THE POSTAL DEBT ISSUE. ANDRE IS OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED BY GOH INACTION ON THE DEBT AND SAID THAT THE MATTER HAS FALLEN BETWEEN MINISTERIAL STOOLS. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT THE U.S. CONSIDERS THE CONTINUED DELINQUENCY ON THE POSTAL DEBT A SERIOUS MATTER POINTING OUT THAT IT MAKES DIFFICULT A RAPID U.S. RESPONSE IN MATTERS OF INTEREST TO HAITI SUCH AS THE RECENT AUGMENTATION OF OUR PL 480 TITLE I PROGRAM.

2. ANDRE SAID THAT SETTling THE DEBT IS NOT THE ISSUE. AS SOON AS THE HAITIAN POSTAL SERVICE COMPLETES ITS COUNTER CLAIM FOR DELIVERY OF U.S. MAIL WITHIN HAITI, THE DEBT CAN BE PAID. THE UNDERLYING PROBLEM IS PROVIDING THE HAITIAN POSTAL SERVICE WITH ENOUGH REVENUES SO THAT IT CAN KEEP ITS ACCOUNTS CURRENT. "THERE IS NO POINT IN PAYING THIS BILL AND HAVING TO GO THROUGH THE WHOLE PROCESS AGAIN NEXT MONTH." IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS CONTEXT, ANDRE SAID THAT A REVENUE PLAN FOR THE HAITIAN POSTAL SERVICE WHICH WAS DEVELOPED LAST SUMMER HAS ENCOUNTERED BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES.

3. COMMENT: ANDRE CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THIS DEBT. WHILE WE INTEND TO CONTINUE PRESSING FOR SETTLEMENT, WE DO NOT WISH TO

ABORT HIS EFFORTS TO REGULARIZE ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES AT THE HAITIAN POST OFFICE AND ENABLE IT TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS ON A CURRENT BASIS. IN THE MEANTIME, EMBASSY OFFICERS WILL CALL ON THE DIRECTOR OF THE POSTAL SERVICE AND EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE UPON A PROMPT SETTLEMENT. WE ALSO PLAN TO MEET WITH UNDP OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE IF THEIR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MIGHT BE USED AS A LEVER IN THIS MATTER.

4. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT AMBASSADOR SALOMON BE INFORMED OF NEED FOR ACTION ON THE POSTAL DEBT LIQUIDATION, IN KEEPING WITH HIS ASSURANCES LAST AUGUST.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2631030
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: HAITIAN POSTAL DEBT
TAGS: ETEL, HA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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